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inclined to regard it as a form of that species, but a careful study has forced me to dispose of it as recorded above.

POLYGONUM SAWATCHENSE Small, Bull. Torr. Club, 20: 213 (1893).

While examining some plants in the United States National Herbarium a short time since, I was surprised to find several specimens which I at once recognized as new representatives of my *Polygonum Sawatchense*. They are nearly like the original in every respect.

One specimen is rather strict and was collected in the Yellowstone Park, by Mr. Tweedy, in 1885. The other specimen is from Castle Rock, in the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains near Golden, Colorado, altitude about 6,000 feet, gathered on July 1 and September 9, 1885, by Mr. Patterson, No. 128. The plants of the last collection are more elongated and rather straggling. This difference is most likely due to their unlike habitats and altitudes.

POLYGONUM DUMETORUM L. Sp. Pl. Ed. 2, 522 (1762).

Recently collected in the vicinity of Knoxville, Tennessee, by Prof. F. Lamson-Scribner. Its geographical range may be defined thus: Eastern Missouri, the prairies of Illinois and Eastern Tennessee.

POLYGONUM CRISTATUM Engelm. & Gray, Bost. Journ. Nat. Hist. 5: 259 (1847).

This I found in the United States National Herbarium under the name of *Polygonum dumetorum*, collected by W. H. Ravenel at Aiken, South Carolina, in September, 1869. In my Preliminary List of American Species of *Polygonum*, two localities for this apparently rare plant are cited, and now we have the third. It may be that the species has often been overlooked on account of its close resemblance to its nearest relatives *P. scandens* and *P. dumetorum*, and we may expect to find it at intermediate stations between Texas and South Carolina. (Plate 196.)

### The Nomenclature of the Genus *Büttneria* Duham.

BY T. H. KEARNEY, JR.

BUTNERIA (correctly BÜTTNERIA) Duhamel, Traité des Arbres et Arbustes, 1: 113. t. 45 (Sept., 1755).—Not *Byttneria* Löfl. It. Hisp. 313 (1758).

*Beurera* Ehret, Pl. et Pap. Rar. Depict. t. 13 (1755).

*Basteria* Mill. Fig. Pl. t. 60 (Dec. 30, 1755).

*Calycanthus* L. Syst. Ed. 10, 1066 (1759).

There are three excellent reasons for preferring *Büttneria* to *Beurera* as the name of this genus:

(1.) Ehret's Tab. 13 was not, so far as I can learn, distributed, and was certainly not included by Trew in his "Plantæ Selectæ." For this reason *Beurera* is not, strictly speaking, a published generic name.

(2.) *Büttneria* should be considered as having priority over *Beurera*, for it seems to be impossible to ascertain the exact date of Ehret's Table 13, although, as Dr. Kuntze tells us, the plate bears the date of the year 1755, in which it was registered. While admitting the apparent impossibility of ascertaining more exactly the date of the table, Kuntze states categorically: "Die Tafel 13 ist aber wahrscheinlich früher als September erschienen."\* No word of evidence is adduced to prove this statement. Now, though no such rule has been formulated, it would seem that, in such a case, justice to the authors of other names would demand that we place the date of the plate at the very end of the year 1755.

In a letter from Peter Collinson to Linnæus,† dated May 12, 1756, this sentence occurs: "Mr. Ehret has only [just] published the *Beveria*, being what at Paris is named *Butneria*." This remark can bear but one construction, that which I have given it by inserting the word "just." As Collinson's last letter to Linnæus before that of May 12, 1756, is dated July 29, 1755, and contains allusions to Ehret's work, but none to the "*Beveria*," the probability is great that the Table 13 was not officially entered before the last months of 1755. Collinson, it may be added, was in constant personal communication with Ehret at this time, and his frequent letters to Linnæus evince the interest he felt in the artist's work. As accurate knowledge seems impossible, even such purely circumstantial evidence should have some weight. Duhamel's work was registered in August and published in September of the same year.

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\* Rev. Gen. Pl. 1: 5.

† Correspondence of Linnæus, Sir J. E. Smith, London, 1821, 1: 38.

(3.) The Table 13 bears the short, descriptive phrase "*Beureria petalis coriaceis oblongis, calycis foliolis reflexis*," which is a polynomial specific name rather than a generic definition. As no species are cited or described, *Beureria*, were it not to be rejected for other reasons, must be relegated to the limbo of "*nomina nuda*."

The species of *Büttneria*, all North American, are as follows:

- (1.) BÜTTNERIA OCCIDENTALIS (Hook. & Arn.) Greene, *Erythæa*, 1: 207 (1893).

*Calycanthus occidentalis* Hook. & Arn. Bot. Beech. 340, t. 84 (1841).

- (2.) BÜTTNERIA FLORIDA (L.).

*Calycanthus floridus* L. Syst. Ed. 10, 1066 (1759).

*Calycanthus sterilis* Walt. Fl. Car. 151 (1788).

*Beureria florida* Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 5 (1891).

- (3.) BÜTTNERIA FERTILIS (Walt.).

*Calycanthus fertilis* Walt. Fl. Car. 151 (1788).

*Calycanthus ferax* Michx. Fl. Bor. Am. 1: 305 (1803).

*Calycanthus nanus* Loisel, in Duham. Traité des Arbres, Ed. 2, 1: 219, t. 48 (1801-4).

*Calycanthus glaucus* Willd. Enum. 559 (1809).

*Calycanthus lævigatus* Willd. l. c.

*Calycanthus inodorus* Ell. Bot. S. C. & Ga. 1: 576 (1821).

*Beureria fertilis* Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 5 (1891).

*Beureria ferax* Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 5 (1891).

The form best known as *Calycanthus lævigatus* is not sufficiently distinct from typical *Büttneria fertilis* to be maintained as a species. Almost every one who has seen the two forms in the natural state is of this opinion. The only character which serves to distinguish them, the presence or absence of bloom on the under surface of the leaf, seems to be due to the immediate influence of habitat. I have seen the same plant exhibiting every gradation from the white under-leaf surface of one form to the green surface of the other. In so small a genus, according to a well-known rule, we should require exceptionally good characters for the definition of species. But in order that the question may be finally settled, the observations of those who have an opportunity to compare the two forms in the feral state, are desired.